

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, claim 1 has been amended. New claim 9 has been submitted for the Examiner's consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are currently pending.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,823,543 to Burns et al. ("Burns").

Newly amended claim 1 recites an in-line roller skate comprising a boot for receiving the foot of a user, the boot including a heel portion, a toe portion and a bottom portion. An outsole is disposed along the bottom portion of the boot. A chassis including a pair of elongated, parallel frames is attached to the bottom portion of the skate. A plurality of wheels are mounted on said chassis between the pair of frames. The frames have opposed front and rear ends. The frames are connected at the front ends only by an axle of one of said wheels. A recess is disposed in the outsole of the boot, and at least one of the plurality of wheels is partially recessed within the recess of the outsole.

In contrast, Burns in Figs. 4 and 5, discloses a pair of frames 20c, 20d that are pivotally connected to a bracket 182, 182' at the front end. Wheels 22c, 22d are mounted to the frames via an axle.

Burns does not disclose or suggest a skate having frames that are "connected at said front ends only by an axle of one of said wheels," as recited by amended claim 1. Burns clearly teaches the opposite of this claim language. As taught by Burns, the front ends of the skate frames are connected together by bracket 182, 182' located at the front end of the skates, as well as the axle of the front wheel 22c, 22d. See Figs. 4 and 5 and column 6, lines 55-60.

As Burns does not recite each and every claimed limitation, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited prior art.

Newly submitted claim 9 also recites that "the front ends of said pair of frames are connected together by only an axle of at least one of said wheels." Therefore claim 9 is also allowable over the cited prior art.

Given the above Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt passage to issuance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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